RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 12th August, 2005/21 *Sravana,* 1927 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

[MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Schemes of National Horticulture Board

*281. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of horticultural land in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of schemes implemented by the National Horticulture Board in the country and in the North-Eastem States;

(c) the percentage of the horticultural produce processed during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(d) whether Government are planning for processing horticultural produce in a larger quantity to avoid wastage of the produce?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The State-wise percentage of area under horticultural crops with reference to total area under cultivation in the country is given in the Statement-I *(See* below). The National Horticulture Board is implementing five schemes in the country including North-Eastem States. These schemes are (i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-harvest Management, (ii) Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Modernization/Expansion of Cold Storage and Storages for Horticulture Produce, (iii) Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture, (iv) Market Information Service for

Horticulture Crops and (v) Horticulture Promotion Services. The total quantity of fruit and vegetables processed during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is 18 lakh tonnes, 20 lakh tonnes and 22 lakh tonnes respectively which is around 1:4 per cent of the production. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Plan Schemes for encouraging development of food processing industries. The schemes includes (a) Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing for which assistance is given in the form of grant, subject to 25% of the plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% upto Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas, and (b) Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Park for which assistance is given in the form of grant subject 25% of the project cost in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crores for provision of common facilities like cold storage, food testing and analysis laboratory, effluent treatment plant, common processing facilities, power, water supply, etc.

Statement-I

Per cent area under horticulture with reference to cultivated area

State	Per cent area under horticulture
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	94.6
Andhra Pradesh	10.8
Arunachal Pradesh	36.3
Assam	15.5
Bihar	14.7
Chandigarh	10.0
Chhattisgarh	2.5
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	9.2
Daman & Diu	12.5
Delhi	69.0
Goa	70.5

State	Per cent area under horticulture
Gujarat	7.0
Haryana	5.5
Himachal Pradesh	37.8
Jammu & Kashmir	28.1
Jharkhand	5.0
Karnataka	12.5
Kerala	75.5
Lakshadweep	16.7
Madhya Pradesh	1.9
Maharashtra	6.8
Manipur	37.1
Meghalaya	30.4
Mizoram	17.0
Nagaland	4.6
Orissa	18.5
Pondicherry	30.0
Punjab	4.4
Rajasthan	3.7
Sikkim	50.9
Tamil Nadu	16.0
Tripura	27.5
Uttar Pradesh	6.7
Uttaranchal	15.1
West Bengal	26.2
All India	10.1

Source: National Horticulture Board database 2004, Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, my first supplementary is, the total processed horticultural produce is stated to be 1.4 per cent only of the total agro-produce. But, Sir, in the Annual Report, the percentage appears to be fairly larger than what is stated here. Sir, particularly, in the North-East Region where there is heavy rainfall, if water catchment programme is taken extensively, more areas can be brought, under horticulture. Sir, my question is, why is the percentage comparatively so small in respect of horticulture? And, what steps the Government propose to take to expand the areas under horticulture, whatever it is possible? Because in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, the percentage is very low. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have put your question. Let him reply. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: This seems to be very low. What is the programme of the Government in this regard?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sarkar, you have put the question. Let him reply.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the production figure of 1.4 per cent which the hon. Member has given is not the country's production. This figure of 1.4 per cent is in respect of processed production. Out of total production, only 1.4 per cent is processed. That is why we are very weak in agro-processing area. That is the reason, we have introduced a number of schemes through agro-processing units.

The second thing which the hon. Member has asked is how to increase the area under horticulture. In fact, this is the reason why the new scheme has been introduced, *i.e.,* the Horticulture Mission, where a substantial monetary provision has been made, and in five year time, we would like to double the total area under horticulture in the country.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, my second supplementary is this. The setting up of processing units for fruits and vegetables may be encouraged among the youth through self-employment schemes. These youth should be specially trained for this purpose; and they should be extended financial facilities through banks. What is the programme in

this regard? Is there any programme with the Government to encourage the youth for self-employment in the field of food processing?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the programme under the Ministry of Food Processing is like this. In fact, as I said, the total capacity of the fruit and vegetable processing industry on the 1 st of January, 2005 is 19.24 lakh tonnes only. What the Government has decided is to encourage this sector. That is why a number of decisions have been taken. For instance, recently, in order to give boost to the growth of food processing industry, the Government has allowed under the Income-Tax Act, a deduction of hundred per cent of profit for five years and twenty-five per cent profit for the next five years. That is one of the decisions which the Government has taken just to encourage various sections. In addition to it, there are some other schemes, where some subsidy has been provided to those who are going to set up a specific unit which will be useful for agro-processing or fruit-processing or vegetable-processing. There is no specific scheme for younger generation. These schemes are available for everybody.

श्री एम.एस.गिल: चेयरमैन साहब, जय राम जी कह रहे है कि आज समय बहुत है, सवाल थोड़े हैं और मेंबर्स भी थोड़े हैं, इसलिए अगर आप इज़ाज़त दें तो मैं डबल बैरल सवाल इनसे पूछना चाहता हूं । पहला सवाल यह है कि यह जो बागवानी का मसला है, इसको हमें बढ़ावा देना है । सभी लोग मानते हैं, मैंने भी नेशनल लेवल और पंजाब में यह काम किया हैं, मैंने देखा है कि फ्रूट्स और प्लांट्स की जो नर्सरीज़ हैं, वहां से आप चाहे कुछ भी ले आएं, लेकिन संतरे खट्टे ही निकलते है । आप तीन साल तक पौधे पालते रहो, बाद में वे खट्टे निकलते हैं । क्या मंत्री जी यह कोशिश करेंगे कि एक बेसिक कानून बना दें कि ये नर्सरीज़ जो प्लांट्स की क्वालिटी की गांरटी देती है, वह गारंटी खरीदने वाले को मिले और इसे टाइम-बाउंड करवा दें, 5 साल के लिए न छोड़े ?

सभापति जी,दूसरी बात मुझे शहद के बारे में करनी है । गरीब आदमी शहद की मक्खी को पालता है और शहद की मक्खी घूमकर मुफ्त आपके लिए 10 परसेंट उपज बढ़ा देती है । वह फल की उपज सरसों आदि सबकी उपज बढ़ा देती है क्योंकि वह यूकेलिप्टस से भी मीठा लेती है, सरसों से भी मीठा लेती है, हर प्लांट से मीठा लेती है और 2 किलोमीटर के ऐरिया में इकट्ठा करके आपको दे जाती है । जब मैं वहां था तो हम लोगों ने एक नेशनल हनी बोर्ड बनाया था और उसको बढ़ाया था, जिससे देश में बहुत शहद होने लगा पंजाब आज भी शहद के उत्पादन में नंबर एक पर है । यह अजीब बात है कि पंजाब नंबर एक पर है, हिमाचल प्रदेश नहीं है । चाइना भी आगे हैं ।

श्री सभापति: बारामती भी बहुत आगे बढ़ गया है ।

श्री एम.एस.गिल: सभापति जी, शरद जी ने मुझे एक ही बात कहनी है कि इन्होंने वह बोर्ड खत्म कर दिया, उनको निकालकर बाहर फेंक दिया, उनके पास पैसे नही हैं और वे मेरे पास आते हैं शरद जी, आप उनकी बाजू पकड़ लीजिए ।

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, regarding the Honey Board, there are certain problems. But let me admit it frankly that I myself have not paid enough attention to it till today. But I would definitely sit with the hon. Member; we would try to understand what exactly the problems are and try to resolve them. This area is related not only to honey; however, this particular item is very useful from various angles and that is why, the Government would pay enough attention to it.

Then, there was a question regarding nurseries. It is true that there have been lots of complaints from farmers that they have been provided with faulty material, which affects them ultimately. And this is the reason that in the Seed Act, we are seriously thinking of introducing a separate chapter to regulate these nurseries.

SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Sir, I would like to know how much assistance for technology upgradation, establishment and modernisation of food processing has been given in the country for the past three years, year-wise. What was the amount kept aside or allotted for this purpose, which the Government has decided to give towards assistance to the people in the country as a whole?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I don't have the figures right now, but I will supply this information to the hon. Member later.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Hon. Chairman Sir, many people talk about the promotion of tourism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, come to the question directly.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: ...although it does not directly affect more than two per cent of the population. But horticulture is the mainstay of the Kashmir Valley and some parts of Jammu. It promotes employment on a wider scale. The National Horticulture Board and Horticulture Mission, etc. are very laudable ideas. But, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture whether he would pay particular attention to

the promotion of horticulture in Kashmir. I say this from a national point of view, because the youth have limited opportunities of employment, and horticulture is a sector that could provide employment to a very large number of unemployed youth in the State.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, Jammu and Kashmir is one of the States where a total of 28.1 per cent land is under horticulture. So, this is one of the States, which has given enough support and encouragement to horticulture. When the scheme was introduced in this country to support and encourage horticulture for the North-Eastern Region, Jammu and Kashmir was not included under that scheme. But recently the Government has amended the scheme and along with the North -East, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal have been included. Whatever concessions and facilities have been provided to the North-East are made applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: But nothing concrete has so far been done. Horticulture Commissioner could visit there.

PROF P.J. KURIAN: Thank you, Sir. Today, in this era of globalisation, the importance of horticulture has increased very much. I have gone through hon. Minister's reply and schemes or projects which he has explained. Sir, these are only cosmetics, a kind of window- dressing. I do not think that considerable relief is provided to the farmers. The reply says that my State, Kerala, has 75 per cent cultivable area, which is the largest in the country, with reference to total area under cultivation in the country. But, farmers are not getting any direction. Instead of this kind of cosmetic arrangement, why couldn't the Government consider giving direct subsidy to farmers and ensuring fair price for their produce?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This Horticulture Mission Scheme has been introduced by the Government of India about three months back. The budgetary provision for this year is about Rs. 1,091 Crores and for the next year it is Rs. 1,209 Crores. So, total Rs. 2,300 crore has been provided for the next two years, which is the highest provision which the Government has made for this Horticulture Mission. But one thing the hon. Member has to admit that this decision was taken three months back and that is why we are in the process of executing and sanctioning the scheme from these very States. It is true that about 75.5 per cent area is under horticulture in Kerala. But the substantial crop in Kerala

comes under the category of plantation crop and spices. So, the main thrust which the farmers from Kerala has been given is the area of spices and plantation, and these two particular subjects are essentially handled by different organisations which comes under the Ministry of Commerce, and there are certain schemes.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. In the reply, it is mentioned that 25 per cent of subsidy is given for the development of horticulture. The horticulture and floriculture growth in India are moving at a slow speed for the last several years. The reason given for the same is that farmers involved in these two sectors are not getting the right price for their produce. Will the Government come forward to commercialise their produce, and help them so that they can get remunerative price? Will the Government help farmers in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, India is the only country where a very small percentage of horticulture products are processed. Once I had given this information to this august House itself that in many countries whether it is Philippines, whether it is Malaysia and whether it is Brazil, more than 60, 70 or 80 per cent produce is processed, and sold throughout the world. In India, in our own country, hardly 1.4 per cent produce is processed. Unless and until we set up a substantial infrastructure for processing of all these items, I don't think we will be able to give proper price to the farmers. One of the serious problems which horticulture farmers is facing in this country is the non-availability of infrastructure and that is the reason why the post-harvesting losses have gone to practically Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 60,000 crores per year. If you have to save farmers from all these problems, the Government has to encourage agro-processing industries; the Government has to encourage infrastructure. From this year, we have decided to set up some modern markets where other facilities like cold-storage will be there, and even agro-processing units will be there. We have selected *Rai* in Haryana which will cater Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Baramati also.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: So, along with the first place which we have selected, we have decided to support farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Sir, the Minister, in his reply, has said that the area under horticulture is less, that is, 10.8 per cent in Assam in comparison to other North-Eastern States because food processing is very much less in Assam and cold-storage is also less. It is because of shortage of electricity. The large-scale production of vegetables like potatoes, tomatoes and other fruits is going waste. Will the Government give special package or scheme for the food processing in Assam?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The scheme is for the whole country and that includes Assam also. In the Horticulture Mission also, we would like to give weightage of Assam and that is the reason I myself had invited the Minister from Assam with a request that we are ready to financially support. They should take more area and they should provide other facilities.

KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Many agricultural universities, including one in Maharashtra, have developed horticulture products with bio-fertilisers which require less water. So, are such experiments being encouraged by the Government?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is a special scheme to encourage farmers to go in for the bio-fertilisers and; they can take advantage of that scheme.

Sickle Cell disease in Chhattisgarh

*282. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that almost ten thousand people die in Chhattisgarh due to Sickle Cell disease;

(b) whether Government would consider establishing a Sickle Cell Unit in the State to provide test facilities at all district centres in Chhattisgarh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and what steps Government are taking to provide cheap and reliable blood test alongwith the details of facilities offered till date?